



UniSource Energy Will Increase Investment in Global Solar Energy

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TUCSON, Ariz.—(BUSINESS WIRE)—Dec. 8, 1999—[UniSource Energy Corp].
(NYSE: UNS)

Wednesday announced it will invest an additional \$14 million in its rapidly expanding solar technology subsidiary.

The investment increases UniSource Energy's ownership in Tucson,- based Global Solar Energy, LLC, to 67 percent. ITN Energy Systems Inc., of Wheat Ridge, Colo. owns the remaining 33 percent. The new investment will be used primarily to expand the production and marketing of Global Solar's photovoltaic material.

Global Solar utilizes a proprietary process to manufacture cost- effective, thin-film Copper Indium Diselenide (CIS) photovoltaic (PV) modules that generate electricity when exposed to sunlight. Unlike traditional solar panels that are heavy, fragile, and rigid, Global Solar's thin-film solar modules are lightweight, durable, and can be incorporated into products that require flexibility.

Global Solar has begun limited production of its unique flexible, lightweight and compact Portable Power Pack(TM) at its Tucson facility.

"Increasing our investment in Global Solar furthers our commitment to capitalizing on new energy technologies," said James S. Pignatelli, UniSource Energy chairman, president and chief executive officer. "This is a reinvestment of some of the proceeds from the sale of other unregulated affiliates.

"We believe Global Solar is positioned to be a leader in the expanding international renewable energy market."

Global Solar's activities primarily have involved developing its Portable Power Pack, fulfilling existing government contracts, supplying photovoltaic material to original equipment manufacturers for incorporation into products such as roofing materials, and providing framed, lightweight modules to satisfy traditional residential and commercial renewable energy applications.

Global Solar also will begin immediate development of a pilot manufacturing line to produce thin-film solid state rechargeable batteries. These thin-film batteries are less than the thickness of a human hair, tolerant of wide ranges of operating temperatures, can be recharged thousands of times, and can be fabricated into many shapes and sizes to meet requirements of specific applications.

Such batteries can be the active power source for microelectronics (implantable medical devices), as a standby power source for microelectronics (CMOS-SRAM computer memory devices), and for other applications including integration with CIS photovoltaic modules to offer fully self-contained and flexible power packs.

In addition to current projects, Global Solar is aggressively planning for longer-range projects by acquiring the intellectual property rights to other technologies now in the development stage.

"UniSource Energy's increased investment in Global Solar will allow us to move into full production and expand our manufacturing capacity sooner to meet the increasing demand for our products," said Global Solar Energy President Dr. Mohan S. Misra.

UniSource Energy Corp. owns two-thirds of Advanced Energy Technologies, which, in turn, owns all of Global Solar Energy. UniSource Energy's other affiliates include: Tucson Electric Power Co., the second largest investor owned utility in Arizona; Nations Energy Corp., an investor in independent power projects; and Southwest Energy Solutions, a regional energy services company.

ITN Energy Systems Inc. is a privately held research and technology development company specializing in advanced materials sciences and thin-film processing to provide innovative solutions to space, energy, and environmental industries.

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